United Nations A/60/355

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 September 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Items 48, 121, 124, 125 and 137 of the provisional agenda*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

2005 World Summit Outcome

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/60/L.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly

* A/60/150.

05-51094 (E) 150905

I. Introduction

1. During the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005, the General Assembly will consider a draft resolution entitled "2005 World Summit Outcome" (A/60/L.1), wherein Member States would take decisions in the areas of development, peace and collective security, human rights and the rule of law, and strengthening the United Nations.

2. The major costs of the draft resolution, i.e., $50 billion in additional funds for financing for development and the implementation of the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (see A/60/L.1, para. 23), fall outside the scope of the present statement of programme budget implications because they will be undertaken by the broader development community. The cost implications for the United Nations will be largely within the (voluntarily funded) United Nations Development Group members rather than the Secretariat.

3. The present statement of programme budget implications identifies paragraphs in the draft resolution which potentially lead to expenditure requirements chargeable to either the programme budget or to the support account for peacekeeping operations. These relate to the current and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and to the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2006. While some paragraphs of the draft resolution would require the utilization of extrabudgetary resources, these are not identified since they would not lead to any charge against assessed funds. A number of other recommendations would require further study. The related financial implications of those recommendations will be provided when the requested reports are submitted to the General Assembly in 2006.

II. Development

4. By paragraphs 17 to 68 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would support a range of development goals and objectives already agreed at major United Nations conferences and summits. The measures envisaged in paragraph 68 reaffirm the commitment of the General Assembly to urgently meet the special needs of Africa, the only continent not on track to meet the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration by 2015.

5. The implementation of paragraph 68 would result in additional resources for the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.

III. Peace and collective security

6. By paragraphs 76, 81-91, 92, 97-105 and 111-115 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would address threats to international peace and collective security by strengthening the capacity of the Secretary-General in the area of the mediation of disputes; supporting efforts to implement the comprehensive United Nations counter-terrorism strategy and promote the ratification and implementation of the existing 12 universal legal instruments, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the proposed comprehensive convention on international terrorism; endorsing the creation of a standing capacity

for the rapid deployment of United Nations civilian police in peacekeeping missions; establishing a Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body; and reaffirming the need to work collectively to combat transnational crime.

7. The activities to be undertaken in support of the foregoing objectives include the establishment of a dedicated Mediation Support Office to provide thematic and operational support to United Nations mediators; strengthening the mediation support capacity of the regional divisions of the Department of Political Affairs; the establishment of standing police capacity in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations; servicing the meetings of the proposed Peacebuilding Commission; establishing a small peacebuilding support office; and strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide assistance upon request to Member States.

IV. Human rights and the rule of law

8. By paragraphs 124, 134 and 136 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy through a series of measures that would strengthen the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; promote the rule of law through technical assistance and capacity-building; and support democracy through strengthening countries' capacities, upon their request, to implement the principles and practices of democracy at the national, regional and international levels.

V. Strengthening the United Nations

9. By paragraph 155 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would reaffirm the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council and would recognize the need for a more effective Economic and Social Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at major United Nations summits and conferences, including the Millennium Development Goals. By subparagraph 155 (b), the General Assembly would call on the Council to convene a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum to review trends in international development cooperation; by subparagraph 155 (c), it would call on the Council to ensure the follow-up of the outcomes of major United Nations meetings and hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews to assess progress.

10. By paragraphs 157-160 of the draft resolution, pursuant to its commitment to further strengthen United Nations human rights machinery, the General Assembly would resolve to create a Human Rights Council and would request the President of the General Assembly to conduct negotiations with Member States during its sixtieth session in order to establish the mandate, modalities, functions, size, composition, membership, working methods and procedures of the Council.

11. Under the terms of paragraphs 161, 163 and 164 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would introduce measures to promote Secretariat and

management reform, including issues of management performance and transparency and reinforcing ethical conduct and accountability at all levels. In addition, the expertise, capacity and resources of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on audit and investigations would be significantly strengthened. The Secretary-General intends to undertake during the rest of 2005 and in 2006 the review and analysis of the issues raised in paragraphs 161, 163 and 164 and to submit the related implementation proposals to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session for its review and decision.

12. By paragraph 170 of the draft resolution, the Assembly would support a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. This would require strengthening the Department of Political Affairs through the establishment of a focal point which would plan and organize meetings between the United Nations and regional organizations.

VI. Summary

13. **Implementation of the above-mentioned measures would require expenditures in the forthcoming biennium 2006-2007, as well as some potential expenditures in the final months of the 2004-2005 biennium. The great bulk of such requirements would fall under the programme budget, while limited requirements would relate to the support account for peacekeeping operations. In all, the total requirements arising from the draft resolution are estimated to approximate $80 million. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, a detailed statement of programme budget implications would be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration in the context of its review of the programme budget for the biennia 2004-2005 and 2006-2007, as well as for the support account.**

14. **The attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the present statement of programme budget implications. The Fifth Committee will examine during the sixtieth session of the Assembly both a detailed statement of the programme budget implications arising from the draft resolution and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon. Consequently, appropriate financial provisions will be incorporated within the budget appropriations to be adopted before the close of the first part of the sixtieth session.**